

# Pocatello, Idaho's Metropolitan Gateway

**P**OCATELLO, Idaho, was named for a Bannock Indian chief. It is admirably situated in a three-cornered valley in the Bannock range of the Rocky mountains, and occupies the distinction of being the only gateway through the range to southeastern Idaho.

During the last year Pocatello has grown rapidly in population and within the coming 12 months it is probable the school census will show no less than 19,000 people.

## CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.

Advancement is ever the watchword with Pocatelloites and nowhere in the Gem state will a more loyal set of boosters be found than right in the Gate City. Populated largely by people from the middle west, those who adopted the city as a permanent home are patriotic in everything which tends to uphold the city. Time, talent and funds are liberally given for the advancement of all public enterprises.

Pocatello may well be termed a city of schools and churches. Nearly every denomination is represented with church buildings. Public schools are graded and properly systematized. Two splendid schools accommodate 2,000 pupils. Then there is the State Academy, covering two city blocks with five large brick buildings and having 300 students, and the Catholic school, a large three-story brick building, likewise accommodating a large number of pupils.

## TWO RAILROADS ENTER.

Pocatello and its adjacent valley are traversed by two railroad systems, the Oregon Short Line and the Utah Northern.

No city in Idaho is prouder of its water system than Pocatello. The water is supplied by the Pocatello Water company and after securing a franchise the company spent in excess of \$600,000 and the spending of another \$150,000 is contemplated in the near future. The system used is gravity and with the final completion of the plant it is contended the system will be by far the best of its kind in the entire west, or for that matter anywhere in the world. Pocatello's water supply is brought from the mountains a distance of 14 miles through iron pipes and is then stored in reservoirs 300 feet above the city, giving a pressure of 150 pounds, making, with a well equipped fire company, the very best possible protection against fires.

## POCATELLO WELL LIGHTED.

No Idaho city is better lighted than Pocatello. Over 70 arc lights are distributed over the city. The power for lighting is furnished by the Snake River at American Falls, 25 miles westward. It is brought to the city by wires carrying 30,000 volts, giving an abundance of electric power for factories and for lighting.

Pocatello has 30 miles of graded streets and five miles of concrete sidewalk. The city owns a splendid park site, containing 140 acres situated one and a half miles south of the city.

**FEDERAL BUILDING PLANNED.** The United States government maintains a weather bureau at Pocatello and Congress has appropriated \$125,000 for a federal building, work on which will be begun in the near future.

Pocatello is justly proud of its general hospital which was thrown open to the public last year. The structure is of stone and it accommodates not only local patients but draws from all surrounding country.

Another handsome building opened this year was the R. R. Y. M. C. A. structure, which was erected by popular subscription, the cost being in excess of \$50,000. Still another building of which the city is justly proud is the public library costing \$15,000.

## REAL CITY OF HOMES.

In every sense of the word, Pocatello is a city of homes. This is but natural owing to the nature of the ground. Everywhere the eye is greeted in the residence district of the city by beautiful and well kept lawns and the trees which line the roadways are majestic.

There is perhaps no better authority in Pocatello on educational matters than W. H. Cleare, member of the board of the Academy of Idaho, and Pocatello school board. In discussing educational institutions of Bannock county Mr. Cleare among other things said to the Deseret News correspondent:

"Bannock county has 51 school districts within its borders, including the independent district of Pocatello, with an attendance, at the various schools of 4,850 students, and has invested in school property upwards of \$200,000. Many of the districts of the county are in possession of modern buildings, up to date in every particular both from a sanitary point of view and in regard to all provisions which can be made for the safety of the pupils. This is especially true of the new school buildings at Downey, McCammon, Soda Springs, Lund, Lava and Bancroft. Within the county are three excellent high schools, at Pocatello, Soda Springs and McCammon, having a full four years course and fully prescribing to the standards of most of the leading universities of the country, to which a certificate from any of these high schools would admit the pupil in possession of same.

**POCATELLO LEADS.** "The largest school of the county is in Pocatello, which has a school census of 1,686 and an enrollment of 1,334. The schools are conducted by a superintendent assisted by a corps

of 31 teachers. The estimated value of property is \$125,000 and the expense of conducting the schools, \$38,000 per annum. The Pocatello school has made immense strides in the past five years in organization, course of studies introduced and operated under the direction of Principal W. R. Siders, a man who stands as probably the leading public school man of Idaho, and who certainly has demonstrated his ability in the efficiency attained in the Pocatello public school. Students transferring from Pocatello to other cities have frequently caused comment by reason of the unusual efficiency for the grade work which has been acquired.

## MODERN HIGH SCHOOLS.

"The Pocatello High school is developing its course along the lines of the most modern high schools of the country, introducing appropriate work both in commercial and technical lines, and its graduates have found ready admission to many of the leading universities, including the University of California, University of Wisconsin, University of Chicago and many others not recalled at the moment.

## COMMODOUS BUILDINGS.

"The schools of Pocatello are conducted in two large buildings, each commodious and constructed of stone. One on one side and the other on the other side of the city. Each is provided with large, airy and well lighted rooms and all modern requirements for safety.

"Pocatello is likewise very fortunate in the possession of a state institution, the Academy of Idaho. This school was organized eight years ago on a very limited scale, opening with an

to the Mormon societies, which were the pioneers in this section, other denominations have been fostered mainly in Pocatello.

The Congregational church was early on the field in 1837. At the present time it occupies a beautiful edifice costing \$14,000 and is returning the favor to the general board by helping in the construction of churches in newer localities. The Catholic and Episcopal denominations soon followed, and have been worshipping in substantial stone structures for several years past.

The Methodist people have been organized about the same time with good interest, and are contemplating the erection of a new building, the old one being inadequate for the present congregation. The Baptist church has been organized since 1842, and has a comfortable house for worship. In 1894 the Presbyterian denomination organized for work, and erected a church building on the east side of the city. All other churches being located on the west side of the railroad tracks.

Pocatello has the usual features for church workers and in addition the constant changing of population owing to the railroad work, which occasions new adjustments in the working constituency of the churches.

The Railroad Young Men's Christian association has been organized in Pocatello since 1881. Rented quarters were occupied until lately, sometimes with a membership of over 700. A canvass was started for a new building in December, 1905, the corner stone being laid for the same in August, 1907, and the building occupied in April last. Like all other similar institutions it has all modern con-

and in the various capacities of railroad work over 2,000 men are given employment. All that the city of Pocatello is at the present time is due to the railroad, and to a large extent the city is a railroad town, but the time is coming when the city for the railroad facilities which it enjoys is bound to become a wholesale and manufacturing center.

The Oregon Short Line operates 10 passenger trains passing through Pocatello, each carrying from 10 to 12 cars. The freight trains operated from Pocatello number between 20 and 45, depending entirely upon the volume of traffic.

## RAILROAD MILEAGE.

In Bannock county there are over 175 miles of railroad, and the smaller towns have abundant facilities for communication with the county seat and cities in this part of the northwest. Nice local devotes are maintained and along the entire line throughout the county neat and well kept yards and roadways are observed.

In the conduct of the railroads here, belonging to the Oregon Short Line the latest improved block system is installed and safety and comfort of traffic is kept at the maximum limit. In the shops at Pocatello some of the best work done in any railroad shop is handled and a high standard of excellence of labor maintained. Pocatello has the railroad and shipping facilities to become a great center and the only thing which can keep its people from becoming wealthy and powerful is lack of enterprise to grasp what is within their reach and use what has been given them without price.

## SPLENDID NEWSPAPERS.

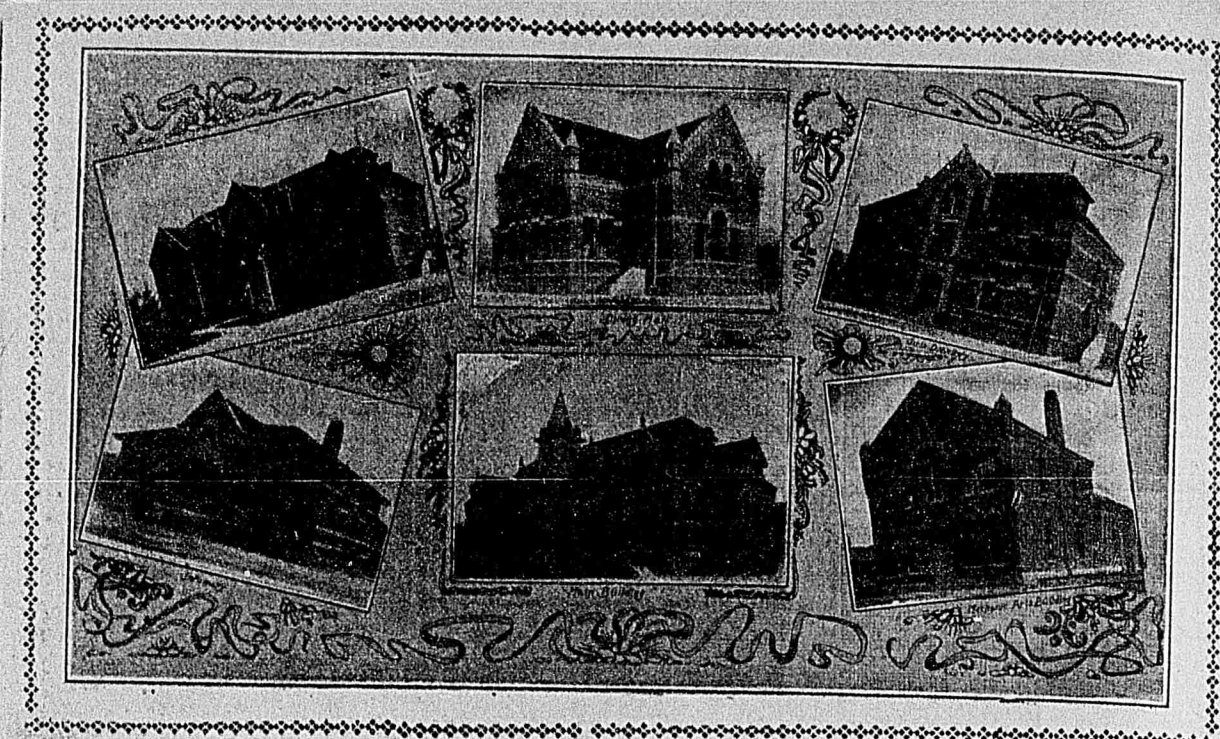
Pocatello supports two splendidly edited and conducted newspapers, one a daily, the Tribune, William Wallin, manager, the other the Advance, T. Talbot, editor, issuing thrice a week. The first named paper is the oldest published in Bannock county, and it is served with Associated Press telegraphic service. A weekly edition is also issued by the Tribune management.

The illustrations used on this page were furnished through the courtesy of the Pocatello Tribune.

## REAL ESTATE VALUES.

In no Idaho city is there a more progressive set of real estate dealers than in Pocatello. Here the realty dealers do things. They not alone advise but they accomplish things and invariably show the intending buyer what they advertise. They never offer excuses and say "we have something else just as good." Pocatello is the home of the Bannock Abstract, Deposit Trust company, one of the oldest and most reliable institutions in the state. By far the greatest business is transacted in the realty market through this firm and the enterprising firms of Gray & Gray and E. C. White & Co.

Bannock county, Ida., has only been opened for settlement and development for a few years. Pocatello, the county seat and the principal city of the county, this part of Idaho, is chiefly a railroad center. A hardy pioneer made at first for the right-of-way for



VISTA VIEWS OF THE ACADEMY OF IDAHO.

the southwestern extremity of the state. As the crow flies 350 miles, as the stream flows nearly 400 miles. This great river flows a distance of about 1,200 miles within the boundaries of the state. Its valley from the eastern boundary to a point 150 miles west of Pocatello has an average width of over 20 miles and contains approximately 6,000 square miles or 4,000,000 acres of land. This valley is more than two-thirds as large as Massachusetts and nearly as large as both Rhode Island and Connecticut.

## LAND IRRIGATED.

"Up to the close of 1905 there were less than 1,400,000 total acres of land under irrigation in the entire state, about 1,000,000 of which was in southeastern Idaho. Since 1905 there have been completed ditches covering 400,000 acres in the same section, namely, the southeastern part of the state, and there are now under construction streams, which when completed, will cover about 670,000 acres, making a total of 2,570,000 acres in this section of the state. All of which is directly tributary to Pocatello.

"Pocetllo acres to the farm is regarded by those best posted on methods and character of farming as the best averaged size farm, and by putting 60 acres to the farm this would mean a farm population of approximately 215,000, and a city and town population

improvements. The bonded debt of the county is a trifle over \$100,000. The debt of Pocatello, the county seat, with a population of over 8,000, is about \$40,000. There are over 50 school districts in the county and less than one-third are bonded, very few of these to the limit allowed by law.

## INDIAN RESERVATION.

Covering an area of some of the finest and best watered lands in the state of Idaho, well situated for farming and agricultural pursuits and a region which some day will be one of the greatest wealth producing regions in the United States lies the Port Hall Indian reservation, where over 2,000 Indians are living. The soil of this part of the country is deep, rich and fertile. It is peopled by the Bannock and Shoshone tribes, equally divided as to numbers.

At Ross Fork, where Indian Agent Maj. A. F. Caldwell resides is a fine government Indian school built by the federal government with Indian money which came from the sale of reservation land. The school cost about \$200,000 and the other improvements and buildings at the reservation over \$500,000.

In this Indian reservation there are about 1,000,000 acres of which 100,000 acres are farming lands and under cultivation.

## HUNTING AND FISHING.

Game of the three classes—fur, an and feathers—is abundant in southeastern Idaho. Within a few hours' ride of Pocatello are some of the finest fishing waters of the west. Within an equal distance of the Gate City there is good hunting for small game. Further away are the big game grounds. The Portneuf river, which runs through Pocatello, is itself a celebrated trout stream. Toward the north and west, where this river passes through the Port Hall Indian reservation, big catches are made. During the season, which lasts almost the year round, parties from Pocatello drive down to the bottoms and come home with full creels.

## INTERESTS JUST BUILDING.

The commercial and industrial interests of Bannock county are in the building. There are at Pocatello located a number of wholesale stores and shippers of county produce and farm products, cattle, horses, sheep and wool.

## LIVE COMMERCIAL CLUB.

One of the strongest organized bodies in Pocatello is the Gate City Commercial club. It is made up in membership of public-spirited citizens who

ant points for the general abstract, real estate and insurance business.

## FOR SQUARE DEAL.

The men at the head of the Pocatello Cash Grocery have adopted the above motto and this concern easily rated one of the strongest of its kind in Bannock county. The company is composed of W. A. Hyde, N. S. Ford and H. S. Woodland. Stores are maintained both on the west and east sides of the city for the accommodation of customers.

In no city in Idaho is more attention given to the burial of the dead than in Pocatello. Here is located Idaho's most modern mortuary, Alfred H. Lindquist. He maintains the finest chapel and funeral cars in the State of Idaho.

## LEADS IN FURNITURE.

One of the leading furniture dealers in Pocatello today is T. C. Martin. The large establishment of Mr. Martin is replete with carpets, linoleums, crockery, linens, pianos, stoves and general house furnishings. The Pocatello Music company, controlled by E. H. Albert and A. E. Fridenstine is the leading concern of its character in this section of the state. It handles pianos, organs and talking machines in large quantities and occupies the distinction of shipping entirely in carload lots.

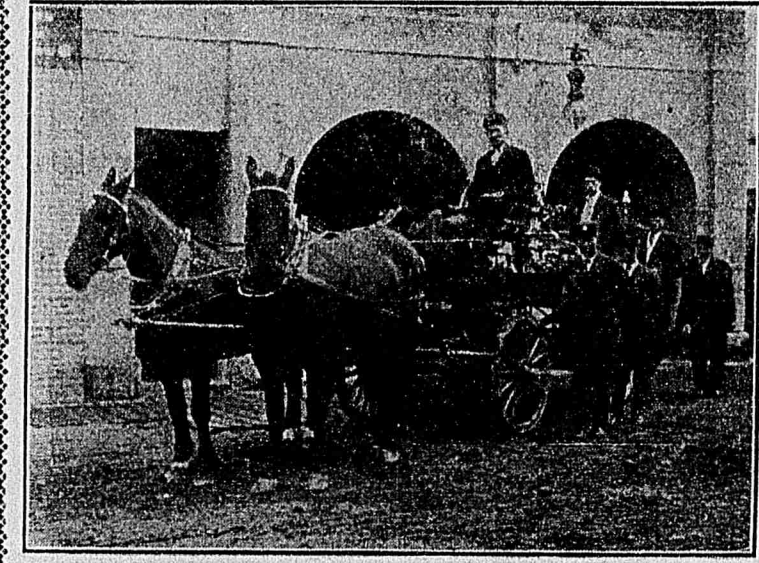
## HEATING AND PLUMBING.

For years past the leading plumbing and heating firm of Bannock county has been Greene & Higson. George A. Greene and A. R. Higson comprise the firm and every large contract in their line in Pocatello usually is supplied by them.

One of the best known and most successful builders and contractors in Pocatello is R. H. Green. His estimates on construction work are always the lowest when it takes into consideration perfect work and his many finished contracts in the city give better testimony than words to his capabilities.

## ENGINEERING WORK.

Pocatello and Bannock county owe much to the Bannock Engineering company, limited, civil engineers. Besides offices in Pocatello the company also maintains offices at Nampa and Halley, Idaho. Members of the com-



THE POCATELLO FIRE DEPARTMENT, HEADQUARTERS IN THE REAR.

the railroad through the Indian reservation, and again for the site for the city and again for a little territory around the city for agricultural purposes. It is only during the past few years that the people have been able to get any kind of title to their ground more than a squatter's right, and that the place is so large as it is and the county so well developed as it is is due to the magnificent advantages which the location offers.

As an instance of the growth in values of real estate in Pocatello and in the county can be cited a few instances which will show what certain parts of the city and county are doing. Residence lots on the east side of the tracks in Pocatello have tripled in value during the past five years. Residence lots on the west side, which five years ago were selling for \$200 a lot, now sell for \$1,000, and are selling easier at the present time than they did at the lower figure.

**DWELLINGS RENT WELL.** Dwelling houses in almost any part of the city bring about \$5 per room a month rent.

For a business property which sold three years ago for \$45,000, located on West Center street, one of the main business streets of the city, the owner is now offered and asks \$60,000. This property is bringing in \$700 per month rentals.

Another business property unimproved on East Center street, which three years ago for \$30 per front foot, is now bid at \$100. It would make one of the main business properties of the city, held at \$19,000, brings in a monthly rental of \$270.

Lots on the west side of the river which brought \$25 and \$30 apiece five years ago are now selling from \$125 to \$150. This is in the vicinity of the new general hospital.

Pocatello is a transient town and a good one in which to rent property. The pay roll is over \$200,000 per month. In the county farm lands can be bought for from \$20 to \$125 per acre for the improved tracts and from \$10 to \$30 an acre for unimproved, which embraces irrigated lands with a perpetual water right.

## DISTRIBUTING CENTER.

There is probably no better posted authority on commercial and distributing statistics in Bannock county, and for that matter, in Idaho, than Mr. J. C. Weeter, of Pocatello, head of the Weeter Lumber company, limited. It is interesting to note what he says. To the Deseret News correspondent he said, following interview:

"Commercial centers are here at the outgrowth of the requirements of the population upon which they are dependent jointly with adequate transportation. As a traveler from the south or west approaches Pocatello, a few miles from the Portneuf river, he passes through what is known as the gateway in the mountains to the famous Snake River valley, which follows the meandering of an ancient name, northward to the Wyoming line and west to

of as much more, or a total of 430,000 people. And this is not taking into account the 1,500,000 acres of land still remaining which it is possible to irrigate by reason of the wonderful storage possibilities of the Bannock and Snake rivers.

"I have been advised by competent engineers, who have carefully looked into the storage possibilities of these streams and their tributaries, that there can be sufficient water stored to irrigate all cultivable lands, and that this will be done ultimately as land becomes scarcer and correspondingly higher in price.

"Pocatello can now boast of being located in the center of the largest acreage of irrigated lands in the United States, and when projects that are now under way are completed will have the largest amount of irrigated land in the world. In addition, few cities in their infancy have been so well favored by railroad facilities. Railroads radiate from here in all directions.

"I predict that not far in the future Pocatello will be the metropolis of the most densely settled section in the intermountain country."

## ELECTRIC POWER.

Hon. James H. Brady, governor-elect of Idaho, who resides in Pocatello, has said, in regarding the resources of Bannock county:

"One resource of the county well worthy of mention is the immense electric power possibilities, due to the numerous waterfalls and the unwavering supply of water from the mountains. From American Falls just outside of the county, comes electricity for light and power; from the numerous falls in Portneuf river in the region of McCammon are unlimited possibilities now utilized and in course of development; in Telluride are large falls possible of great power.

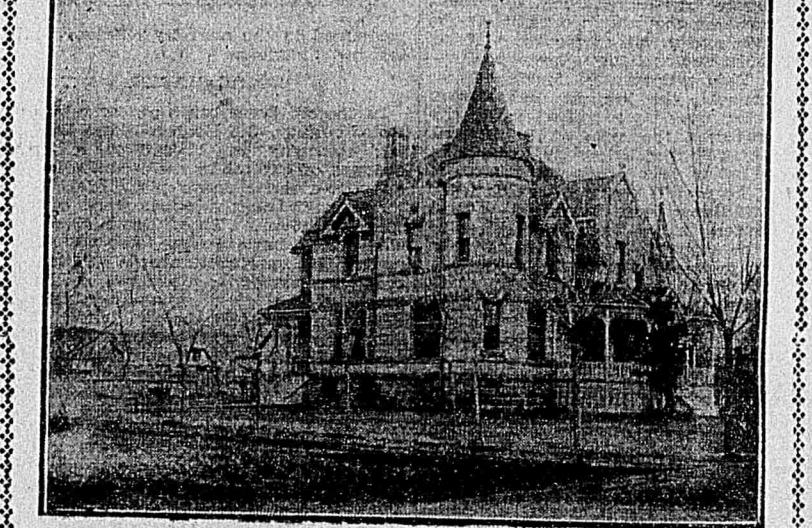
**RICH IN MINERALS.** "In minerals the county has rich prospects, and much development work is being conducted, with excellent outlook for agricultural pursuits. Stock-raising in connection with farming for the producing of winter forage is at present, and will be more so in the future, the natural and profitable system for the farmer in these mountainous regions."

Bannock county was cut off from Old Idaho county and was originally largely composed of the Fort Hall Indian reservation was thrown open to settlement, or rather that portion of it which was segregated by act of Congress, comprising about 800,000 acres.

## AGRICULTURE A FEATURE.

Bannock county as a Rocky mountain district enjoys favorable conditions for agricultural pursuits. Stock-raising in connection with farming for the producing of winter forage is at present, and will be more so in the future, the natural and profitable system for the farmer in these mountainous regions."

**BANKS AND FINANCE.** In finance and financial institutions Bannock county has been exceedingly fortunate, never having experienced a bank failure and always finding a ready market for bonds covering debt and



ONE OF THE MANY HANDSOME HOMES OF POCATELLO.

mercial club. It is made up in membership of public-spirited citizens who

## LABOR CENTER.

Pocatello being one of the leading industrial cities of Idaho it is but natural that she should be a strong labor stronghold. It is a matter for general congratulation that since the historic railroad strike which involved the entire United States, there have been no serious labor troubles in Pocatello.

Pocatello is justly proud of its secret organizations. The more prominent fraternal bodies have their own buildings.

## POCATELLO'S BOOSTERS.

No history would be complete without mention of one of the best known residents of Bannock county, Mr. E. D. Harrison, who has been recognized since 1898, as the leading jester of Pocatello. His establishment is one of the largest and finest today in the great Gem state.

Perhaps no single institution in Pocatello and Bannock county is more instrumental in bringing visitors to the city and making permanent residents of them than the Bannock Abstract, Deposit & Trust company. This institution was established in 1885 by Theo. Turner and Fred G. Caldwell, under the name of the Bannock County Abstract company. Its present officers are Theo. Turner, president, Fred G. Caldwell, vice president and Ezra J. Merrill manager. Branches have been established by the company at import-

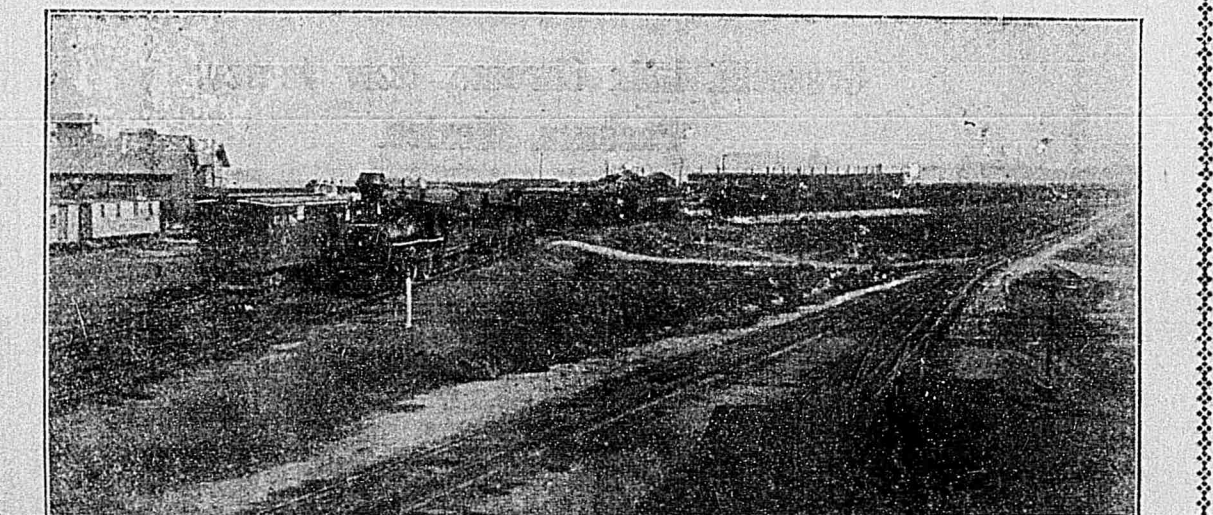
pany include E. S. Anderson, W. P. Havenor, city engineer of Pocatello, E. P. Bigelow, superintendent construction work on Pocatello's new library, and W. E. Dinkering. Members of the club are United States mineral surveyors. The company does much bridge construction and irrigation project work.

## BIG LUMBER INTERESTS.

Pocatello owes as much to the Weeter Lumber company, limited, as to any other single concern. Here is maintained the principal offices and larger shipping and answering inquiries. For that matter inquiries of any of the above boosters will always bring quick answers. Likewise the answers will be truthful, for there is no need to tell anything but the truth regarding Pocatello, the metropolis of that section of Idaho.

## FOR INFORMATION.

Intending visitors to Pocatello or Bannock county would do well to communicate with E. C. White & Co., real estate and insurance brokers, or Gray & Gray, similar agents. The latter two firms will always gladly explain conditions and answer inquiries. For that matter inquiries of any of the above boosters will always bring quick answers. Likewise the answers will be truthful, for there is no need to tell anything but the truth regarding Pocatello, the metropolis of that section of Idaho.



POCATELLO, IDAHO, IN 1887, WHEN THE CITY WAS ONLY A RAILWAY STATION. To the left can be seen the railroad ice houses and in the distance the roundhouses. At that time the line was a narrow gauge. Where the roundhouses show in the picture now there is a large shop of the Oregon Short Line, which cost about \$1,000,000. The entire foreground is covered by the depot, railroad hotel and the